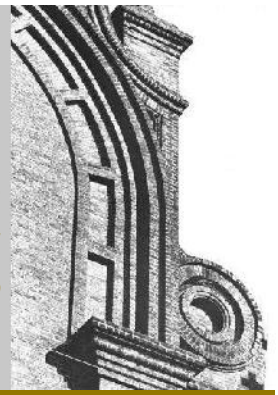


Seelos Center News

2030 Constance Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
(504) 525-2495
(504) 525-2499
www.seelos.org



National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

In the Redemptorist Church of Saint Mary's Assumption

Volume XLVI
Number 9
September 2007

1867 - 2007

140TH ANNIVERSARY OF FATHER SEELOS' DEATH

United in Prayer

Fr. Seelos died of yellow fever in New Orleans on October 4, 1867 at 5:45 p.m. The Angelus bells of St. Mary's Assumption Church, where he was pastor, chimed shortly thereafter. To commemorate this special milestone of his death, please join with Seelos devotees in all fifty states and beyond in a moment of prayer & solidarity ...

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2007
at 5:45 p.m. (CST), you are invited to kneel & recite the Angelus for the Canonization Cause of Bl. Francis Seelos. If circumstances do not allow, please offer 3 Hail Mary's for this intention. "If you join your voices on earth to pray for anything whatever, it shall be granted by my Father in heaven" (MT 18:19).

THE ANNUAL SEELOS MEMORIAL MASS

Sunday, October 7, 2007 - 11:00 a.m.
St. Mary's Assumption Church
(corner of Josephine & Constance streets)
New Orleans, LA

FOURTH ANNUAL SEELOS GALA DINNER & AUCTION

Sunday, October 7, 2007 - 5:30 p.m.
Sheraton New Orleans Hotel
Armstrong Ballroom
500 Canal Street, New Orleans

Contact the Seelos Center 504-525-2495
for Gala reservations by Tuesday, Oct. 2.

PRIEST OF THE LORD:

Consider Your Dignity, Consider Your Burden

"Priest of the Lord," advised Fr. Francis Xavier Seelos in a sermon preached at a First Mass in 1858, you stand "at the foot of the altar to enter into the Holy of Holies, to present the spotless Lamb for the salvation of the world and to offer it up with your own hands for everyone. Consider your dignity; consider your burden."

Perhaps Fr. Seelos' heroic virtue gives its greatest witness not only in his pastoral zeal & prayerful union with the Lord, but in the pleasant disposition & cheerful attitude about which he undertook all of his ordinary duties as a dedicated priest. Fr. Seelos' approach to ministry, and his outlook on priesthood as both a dignity and burden, is especially appealing today - due to the burnout rate among clergy and the increasing demands of pastoral ministry in the face of fewer pastoral agents.

Francis Xavier Seelos believed that the priest's greatest dignity is in the Eucharist & in the Sacrament of Penance, because it is in both that the priest functions with so much divine power. About the Mass, he said, "As he did, so we take bread into our hands, his words are on our lips, and he comes down from the highest heaven." The confessional was an area of ministry dear to Fr. Seelos, particularly to those who were overly burdened by

scruples & the harsh legalism of the time. "Even the greatest sinner," said Seelos, "when a servant of God comes, feels in the deepest reaches of his secret, a ray of higher light ... and poses the question, 'Oh, is there still mercy for me?'"

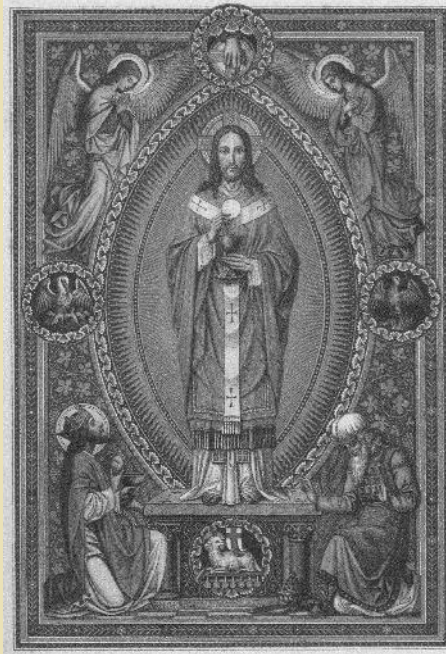
It was Thomas Merton in *The Seven Storey Mountain*, who wrote: "The first

and most elementary test of one's call to the religious life ... is the willingness to accept life in a community in which everybody is more or less imperfect." Such an acknowledgement may well have been Fr. Seelos' secret to happiness as a priest in a religious community. Acceptance and forgiveness of one another's imperfections - both in and out of the rectory - can do wonders to ministerial effectiveness!

Francis Seelos, posthumously known as the 'Cheerful

Ascetic,' hardly fits the description of an angry priest. Anger, whether repressed or forcefully expressed, is seldom healed when buried, or allowed to simmer, or channeled in vengeful behaviors toward a bishop, superior, or other targets in a priestly vocation. "Virtue," said Saint Thomas Aquinas, "consists in being angry at the right person for the

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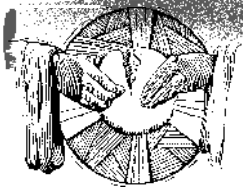
(continued from page 1)

right reasons and for the right amount of time." Fr. Seelos, a spiritual director to bishops and a confessor to clergy, presumably advocated acceptance and forgiveness to help heal hurts and entrenched anger.

Fr. Seelos spent a third of his priestly life in the training of seminarians when the U.S. was torn asunder during the fractious period of the Civil War. With his students originating from both northern & southern states, Fr. Seelos was all too wary of the burden that hostility & anger brings to relational dynamics in a religious community. In fostering accep-

tance and forgiveness in a climate of division and partisanship, the admirable example and words of Fr. Seelos are a reminder of how burdens can be dignified in a vocation to the priestly & religious way of life: *"What dignity! Enough to make the angels tremble. What a burden! Enough to make giants stumble. And yet our divine Redeemer does not seek out either angels nor strong giants, but the weak and the unpretentious in the sight of the world so that he might bring to nothing their wisdom and their strength. Comfort! Great comfort!"*

-- The Editor



At St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, PA, our rector gave us a small book about the life of Bl. F.X. Seelos, and I felt close to him then. However, those feelings faded into memories as seminary flew by, and I worried about how well I would do as a priest. Having been ordained only two years now, at 27 years of age, my bishop has made me pastor of a small parish in our diocese! The reason I write to you is this: I have been searching for a new friend in heaven who was a priest! How providential it was then, when my former pastor suggested I ask Bl. F.X. Seelos' intercession for a friend of mine! My prayers were answered and my friend was cleared of all cancer! Truly a blessing! How much happier I was, though, when I began to read the lessons & writings of Bl. F.X. Seelos. Here, a man devoted to Mary, devoted to the Church, devoted to the Missions, and devoted to being a good and holy priest. His words regarding the kindness of a priest have ignited an even deeper love of this vocation that I share with him. Finally, I have one more request. I am still getting used to being a pastor. To be honest, I am still getting used to being a priest! I love it with all my heart, especially being honored to celebrate Mass! But I still feel called to a deeper holiness. Could you please say a prayer for me to Bl. Seelos that God might make me into a good and holy priest and pastor?

— Father David J. Young, Ada, Ohio



that a gift of \$10 to our Annual Appeal will help defray the cost of printing & postage of this newsletter for one entire year.

Visit our redesigned www.seelos.org as we celebrate

our 100,000th-plus visitor!
Check for online promotions.

Also, view Fr. Seelos on YouTube!

A monthly newsletter for friends of Bl. Francis X. Seelos

Seelos Center News

Denver Provincial Superior:
Very Rev. Thomas D. Picton, C.Ss.R.
Seelos Center Executive Director / Editor:
Rev. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.
Seelos Center Administrator: Joyce Bourgeois

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www.seelos.org
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The Seelos Center offers the following services:

☐ *Pilgrimages* to St. Mary's Assumption Church, Seelos Shrine & Museum. Call the Center at 504-525-2495 or 525-2499.

☐ *Daily Spiritual Message*
Call 504-586-1803.

☐ *Blessings of the Sick* with a Mission Crucifix of Blessed F. Seelos in New Orleans & other area hospitals. Please call:

East Jefferson

Gerry Heigle: 504-554-1912
Teresa LaCour: 504-887-0214

Ochsner

Mark/Monica Surprenant 504-895-5371

Uptown/Innecity

Jack Pitkin: 504-524-6591

Westbank

Elaine Freeman: 504-341-2213
Rosary Stoltman: 504-393-9423

Baton Rouge

Gloria Bacque: 225-767-8432
Marie Giorlando: 225-615-7888

Covington

Dr. Ann Logarbo, MD: 985-886-0218

Houma/Thibodaux

Dan Montz, L.P.C.: 985-446-1805

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Mandeville

Bill & Sunny Schulz: 985-792-5394
Pam Crutchfield: 985-966-0358

New Iberia/Berwick/Baldwin

Rachel Gonsoulin 337-224-7855
Fred Roy 337-380-0646

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Deacon Percy Vicknair: 985-652-9313

Slidell

Carmelie Mancuso: 985-641-6999
Mary Jo Stewart: 985-643-5548

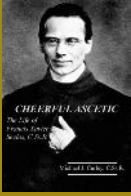
St. Bernard/Arabi

Patricia Noote: 504-756-4163

☐ *Veneration of Bl. F. Seelos' Mission Crucifix* in historic St. Mary's Assumption Church (Josephine & Constance streets).

☐ *Weekly Mass* celebrated for the intentions of the Seelos benefactors. Please list Special Intentions in the space provided on the enclosed envelope.

The Seelos Center offers the following devotionals:



Cheerful Ascetic: Life of F.X. Seelos, a 480-page hardbound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$23.00 + 6.95 p/h)



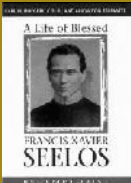
.999 Fine Silver Seelos Medal Round, 3/4" dia., with loop; brushed image with polished reverse and edge. Marked with .999 FS on reverse top. (Donation: \$52 - includes p/h).



Willy Finds Victory: A Blessed Francis Seelos Story, Introduce youth, ages 7 - 12, to Fr. Seelos in this 110-page illustrated book by Joan Stromberg (Donation: \$12, incl. p/h)



Death, Where Is Your Sting? is a tender account of Fr. Seelos' final weeks of life as told primarily by those who witnessed his death. Seldom revealed details surrounding his encounter with yellow fever transport us to the bedside of a true martyr. Hardcover, 175 pp., photos. (Donation: \$23 - incl. p/h)



A Life of Blessed Francis X. Seelos, a 108-page paperback biography by Fr. Carl Hoegerl & Alicia von Stammwitz. (Donation: \$11 - includes p/h)



Seelos Medals: Made of nickel silver, round 3/4" dia. with loop, antique finish, finely crafted in the U.S. (Donation: \$3 each or 2/\$5 + \$1 p/h)



Seelos Perpetual Mass League: A one-of-a-kind lasting remembrance for you or for someone dear, living or deceased. (Donation: \$25, contact Seelos Center for enrollment)

☐ **Pamphlets & Prayer Cards** of Bl. F. Seelos, available in English, Spanish & Vietnamese.

☐ **A Bl. F. Seelos vigil candle** will burn near his sacred resting place in St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans, for an offering of \$3.

☐ **First, Second & Third-Class Relics** of Bl. F. Seelos. Call Seelos Center, 504-525-2495 or 2499.

Please allow up to 2 weeks for delivery of item(s).



"I n the state of L ouisiana, an old man said to a missionary: 'R everend Father, does God give His Mercy to a man as long as he lives?' 'Certainly," said the priest. 'Even if he committed as many sins as there are blades of grass in this meadow?' 'A gain Y es' was the answer. 'B ut Father, if the meadow were a thousand times bigger than this one and the blades of grass grow even more closely together, what then? Would there still be mercy? Even if the sins were of the greatest, including willful murder and other terrible mortal sins?' A nd when the missionary said: 'Even then God's Mercy prevails because God's Mercy is above all His Works.' Hearing this answer the man took courage to make a good confession."

--Fr. Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.



"A Priest who made the diocesan retreats which were conducted by Father Seelos told that ... after the bell had rung for a conference and the Fathers had already assembled in the Seminary Chapel, everyone would show outwardly the joy in his heart, when from afar, could be heard the quick step and the tinkling of the rosary of the approaching amiable R etreat Master. A nd after he had said the opening prayer and taken his place in the pulpit and had said, "My R everend Fathers," everyone hung on his lips. A fterwards, each and everyone present wanted to pour out his heart to good Father Seelos."



"If, in a crowded school, the teacher wished to spread youthful joy, all they had to do was to say to the children: 'Father Seelos is coming!' If it was desired to fill a church to overflowing for a special sermon, all that was necessary was to get the word around: 'Father Seelos is going to preach today!'"

Scholarships at the National Seelos Shrine support students who demonstrate academic merit & financial need, and offer the same inspiration from Father Seelos that the students in his day received. Scholarships are awarded to 8th grade students of the New Orleans Archdiocese who are currently enrolled in non-parochial Catholic schools with the intent to continue their education at any Catholic high school located in the New Orleans Archdiocese.

The Outstanding Recipient of the Seelos Catholic 8th Grade Scholarship was **KEVIN FITZPATRICK** (New Orleans) in the amount of \$2,000 to Jesuit High School.

A Seelos High School Senior Scholarship is also awarded to 12th grade students of the New Orleans Archdiocese who are currently enrolled in Catholic schools with the intent to continue their education at any Catholic university in the country.

The 2007 Outstanding Recipient of the Seelos High School Senior Scholarship was **CATHERINE E. URBASZEWSKI** of Archbishop Blenk High School, Gretna.

If you wish to support the 8th Grade or 12th Grade Seelos Scholarships, please designate your intentions on the enclosed envelope.

New Featured Items!

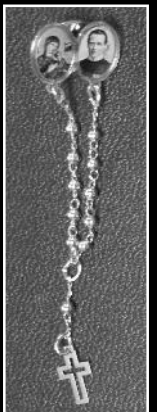
Protector Key Chain

Measures 4 1/4 inches with color Seelos image & Perpetual Help image on reverse.

double blessing pin

Measures 3 1/4 inches with color Seelos & Mother of Perpetual Help images. Gold-plated.

Both practical & inspirational. Ideal as gifts of appreciation! \$14 for both, includes P/H



TESTIMONIALS

GREENWOOD, LA

My husband has had two major surgeries. We were told that both had many risks involved and that he may not make it. We both prayed about the surgeries & promised to spread the word at our Catholic Church here in Shreveport, since so few parishioners know about Bl. Francis X. Seelos. My husband wore the relic through both surgeries and I thank God for this wonderful miracle through Fr. Seelos' intercession. Incidentally, while my husband was in ICU and still in a coma, they removed his gown with the relic and we were unable to find it. The nurses said it went to laundry, as they forgot to remove it. I asked God to bless every hospital gown that got washed with it, so that those patients who wore it would receive the same miracle we received.

GALESBURG, IL

A few weeks ago, I had a mammogram and a nodule was found. I prayed to Blessed Seelos that it would be nothing serious. Blessed Seelos answered my prayers as it turned out to be a cyst and no further treatment was needed.

BREAUX BRIDGE, LA

In 2006 my dermatologist diagnosed a lesion on my nose as having basal cell carcinoma. Surgery was performed and a skin graft was applied. Approximately a year thereafter, another lesion appeared near the first one. A biopsy was taken, and during the period of lab analysis, I made a novena to Bl. Seelos using his relic, all through our Lord Jesus Christ. I thank God and Bl. Seelos for the favorable benign cancer result.

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION

I was fortunate enough to visit with Bl. Seelos at his shrine and obtain a relic during my recent trip to New Orleans. After I left Catholic school, including a year of seminary, I no longer felt good about the Church. However, after my brief visit to the shrine, I actually felt joy being in the presence of God, in that way. As one who now lives as a Jew, it really is a miracle and I am blessed.

DAPHNE, AL

Although I have not been a particularly devout Catholic, I have read through the Bible, and I do firmly believe in the power of prayer. But admittedly, I have not been particularly close to the Church for some time. I will try to become more involved. My wife reminded me to visit the Fr. Seelos website, and after spending some time reading there, I was deeply moved. That is why I am writing you. I began to recall how 25 years ago, my wife's mother asked us to pray for Fr. Seelos to be canonized. I knew some of Fr. Seelos' works, but did not remember the depth of his faith and the cheerful way he endured!

NEW ORLEANS, LA

(from an M.D.) My wife prays for the recovery of her sister at Mass each morning. After Mass, it is her habit to stay in the chapel and pray for a few minutes before the picture of Fr. Seelos. In fact, she has been only one of a number of people in our family praying to Fr. Seelos almost daily. My sister-in-law was diagnosed with multiple myeloma about 11 years ago. Myeloma is almost always fatal with an average life expectancy of 3 years from the time of diagnosis until death. Some patients, however, will smolder for a number of years before they rapidly deteriorate and die. Her response to the various forms of therapy offered was marginal at best. Repeat laboratory & radiographic studies have been done each year to look for evidence of recurrence of the multiple myeloma. The last studies were done April of this year. In my view, this experience cannot be explained by the normal confluence of events and excellence in the practice of medicine. I believe one must look to prayer to explain the outcome. I hope that this summary can add to material that has been prepared to petition the Vatican for canonization of Bl. F.X. Seelos.

DIAMONDHEAD, MS

I have been praying to Fr. Seelos since a friend introduced him to me. After Katrina, I have been asking Fr. Seelos to help my son

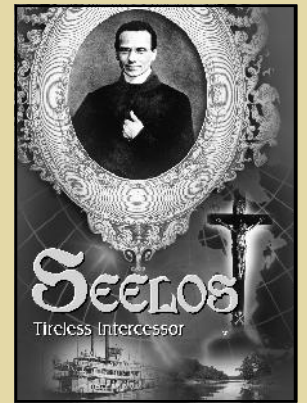
get his life back on track, as he had so many problems even before the hurricane struck. I do believe Fr. Seelos answered my prayers and performed a miracle. I want everyone to know how he helped my son. I will always have great devotion to Fr. Seelos and he should be made a saint.

Please pray with us at 5:45pm on Thursday, October 4!
See page 1 for details

"I was deeply touched by the video on Seelos that I watched this week. It has the quality of a motion picture! I hope the Pope has seen this."
--Viewer from Virginia

SEELOS, TIRELESS INTERCESSOR

This documentary chronicles the heroic & miraculous life of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos. Father Seelos possessed great mystical gifts due to his intense prayer life. His ability to minister with cheerful holiness made him a spiritual father to tens of thousands. Despite his early death, so profound was his missionary zeal that sickness, persecution, and even the upheaval caused by the Civil War, could not stop him.



Please send request & payment to:
Seelos Center
2030 Constance Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

68 min. DVD
(\$29.00 + \$5.50 p/h)

\$25

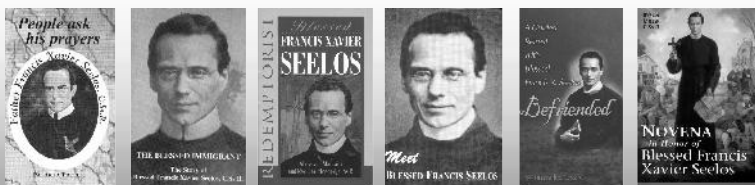
68 min. VHS
(\$24.00 + \$5.50 p/h)

\$20

(\$8.50 p/h for any 2 or more)



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